

Kyodan

News Letter

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN JAPAN
JAPAN CHRISTIAN CENTER
551 Totsukamachi 1-chome
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160, Japan

Cable Address: Japankyodan Tokyo Telephone: 202-0541

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Takakura expresses hopes for future international church relations

Hayden Family demonstrates laymen in world mission

Yamashita proposes ¥500 million pension fund

What has been and is to be

"FROM NOW ON

we hope for the opportunity to talk frankly with churchmen of other countries about the problems they and we face as we seek to carry on our responsibility for mission in the world," said Kyodan General Secretary Toru Takakura, when interviewed recently about what he looks for from churches overseas in the future.

"In the past we have been occupied largely with problems related to missionaries and funds," Takakura said. "Now we will be looking for opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences with people who are actually caught up in the various struggles and problems in their own countries--the problems of war, peace, minorities. We think that the ideas and advice of others can be creative elements to help us solve our problems. And the knowledge of how others are seeking to fulfill mission encourages us."

As a second shift in patterns, Takakura referred to the fact that "in the future Japan must identify more with Asia. In the past our relationships have been too heavily weighted toward the West, too lightly weighted toward other countries in Asia. This is something the Japanese Church must reflect upon. In the future we must identify with Asians' problems. Perhaps Japan has a contribution to make in helping United States understand Asia," he added, reflecting upon the difficulties Asia, and particularly Vietnam, have posed for the U. S.

"And we must become true 'good' friends and partners," he said. "A good friend is one who does not merely agree to everything the other one says but who speaks frankly, giving the other person advice or criticism as seems fit. In this respect, the Japanese Church may be becoming a little more mature."

"We are not yet in a position to achieve all of these hopes" concluded Takakura. "There are many faults within our church and we lack power. But we feel in the future we must look together with other churches in the world at what our mission is, what our problems are, and how we can help strengthen one another and cooperate with one another in our mission tasks."

"When visitors come to Japan, we want them not only to visit and study the Japanese church situation. We would like them to ask them to share their experiences and suggestions with us."

Never a Dull Moment Haydens

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Ecumenicity comes in many shapes and forms. The Kyodan finds its life enriched not only by persons formally related to its life, but also by those rare but precious persons who voluntarily seek fellowship and service. As one example we introduce below the HAYDEN Family, British friends residing in Yokohama.

The day is New Year's 1971 and the place the Yokohama Seamen's Mission. ERIC, six foot four, whose somewhat over thirtyish looks belie his over fortyish age, as dispenser-in-chief of the beverage department, with nine year old IAN as second in command, is dispensing comfort to several score of thirsty seamen. DAPHNE, behind whose English school girl complexion lurks an awesome array of talents and energies, is turning out great quantities of chicken casseroles, omelets, steaks and what have you, with BRENDA, 17, and ALISON, 12, making sure that these reach their hungry gastronomic destinations. CLIVE, 16, home from England for the Christmas vacation, is general factotum and welcomer, a friendly kid-brother to sailors far from home.

These are the HAYDENS of Yokohama, as English as cricket and crumpets, and as close to perpetual motion as a group of six human beings can get. Their way of spending this particular New Year's Day was to take over and run the Seamen's Mission to give the staff the day off. ERIC is manager of the insurance section of the Japan

office of Butterfield and Swire, a huge British shipping, transportation and insurance corporation. Cathay-Pacific Airways is one of its branch enterprises. He started his career as a sailor in the Royal Navy in World War II. As chairman for two years of the Yokohama International School Board, he helped to raise the academic standards of the school. On the principle that the more one does the more he is asked to do, ERIC was also coopted to serve on the board of the Yokohama Bluff Hospital. A one-time cricketer, he keeps trim with golf and tennis, and occasional hiking, his good wife DAPHNE joining him in the last two. They make a formidable tennis doubles team.

ERIC serves Yokohama Christchurch as an active layman and member of the Vestry, and on Palm Sunday was licensed as a reader. This is one step in the direction of a new career, of which he is on the threshold. This summer he will return with his family to England, to enter Salisbury Theological College to train for the priesthood of the Church of England.

DAPHNE, whose overflowing spirits match ERIC's, is as enthusiastic about their new career as he. She is very much at home in the church. Chairman of the Ladies' Auxiliary and organist at Christchurch, she is part of whatever is happening in the life of that church, not to mention the Yokohama International School P.T.A. During the year, she conducted at the church a weekly musical appreciation series lasting for several weeks. With her whole family's enthusiastic help, she gives warm welcome to a constant stream of dinner guests and spreads a table whose culinary quality matches its quantity.

For the past year DAPHNE has been an unofficial but valuable part of the Kyodan Central Office. Spotting one day in the Jean Pearce "Reader's Exchange" of the Japan Times a request for a volunteer typist, she offered her services to the Kyodan in May last year, and has given expert secretarial help two days each week to the Kyodan Committee on Ecumenical Ministries and the Missionary Personnel Staff. Hearing the rattle of her typewriter, visitors would take her for a paid stenographer.

The family zest for life overflows from work, church and school into the Yokohama Country and Athletic Club, where the Haydens make good use of their family membership.

This summer IAN and ALISON will transfer from Yokohama International School to grammar school in England. CLIVE is already a student at Hurstpierpoint Public School, and BRENDA, who has been a volunteer teacher of first grade

in the Yokohama school, from which she graduated last year, is also studying art and looking forward to entering Seaford Teachers' Training College in the autumn.

Wherever they are, it is safe to predict that the Haydens will be busy doing something for somebody.

Yamashita Proposes ¥500 Million Pension Fund

A bold plan to raise ¥500 million (\$1.4 million) to bolster the present Kyodan Pension Fund has been proposed by Toshiyoshi Yamashita, executive secretary for finance of the Kyodan, according to the May 8 issue of the Kyodan Shimpo.

The Kyodan News Letter of Feb. 20, No. 51, explained the background of the present critical situation in which 90 pastors over the age of 75 are still serving churches, many of them unable to retire because of insufficient income, and many retired pastors and widows are getting along on far less than the minimum necessary under the constantly rising cost of living in Japan today.

To meet the increasing financial pressure upon those who have retired or who are about to retire it has been necessary for the Kyodan to divert an increasing proportion of the contributions for national expenses and program to the Pension Funds.

A sizeable contribution to the Fund, established in 1958, was made last year when property originally intended for the Japan Christian Center was sold at a profit of ¥110 million, due to the appreciation of land values, and that profit turned over to the Fund. Yamashita foresees that ¥500 million addition to the present Pension Fund Capital Holdings would provide a base for increasing pension payments to the necessary level.

According to Yamashita's proposal, the Kyodan would seek to raise the necessary ¥500 million through special offerings from the churches, the sale of additional Kyodan property, and gifts from overseas.

In April General Secretary Toru Takakura expressed to the Council of Cooperation General Meeting the hope that mission boards selling property in Japan would designate for the Pension Fund a percentage of the profit realized as a result of the enormous increase in land values.

what has been --- I N T H E K Y O D A N --- what is to be

I. Coming Events

Consultation June 8-10 on "The Position of the Confession of Faith in the Kyodan" at Tozanso, Gotemba. 110 to participate (Shimpo 5/22)
Heads of church kindergartens attend annual meeting in June under Committee on Education sponsorship (Shimpo 5/1)
National Federation of Kyodan Women's Societies sends second mission to Korea May 24-30 (Shimpo 4/24)
Social Committee sponsors long-term Home Study Seminar on "The Church and Militarization" culminating in Sept. meeting (Shimpo 5/8)
2nd Pioneer Evangelism Consultation to be held Aug. 24-26 on theme of "History and the Church" (Shimpo 5/22)

II. Communication (mass communication, publishing)

Kirisuto Shimbun, ecumenical weekly started by Kagawa, celebrates 25th anniversary (Shimpo 5/22, Shimbun 5/15)

Education

see "Coming Events"

Evangelism

see "Coming Events"

Finance

As of April 30, apportionment payments reach 76%, those to self-reliance fund 67%, slightly ahead of rate of payment of last year (Shimpo 5/15)

Kyodan Financial Executive proposes ¥500 million (\$1.4 million) campaign to bolster pension fund holdings and provide minimum livelihood for elderly pastors (Shimpo 5/22. News Letter 5/71)

Kyodan (national and district level)

Annual Assemblies held in Kanto, Shikoku, Nishi-Chugoku, Hokkai, Ou, Tohoku, Tokai, Higashi-Chugoku, Kyushu (Shimpo 5/15, 5/22)

Ministry

see "Finances"

Standing Comm. accepts resignation of members of Comm. of Ministerial Qualifications; new committee elected by Standing Comm. meets 4/30, 5/10 (Shimpo 5/22)

Overseas

Committee on Ecumenical Ministries issues call for pastors to serve Japanese-Americans in Western U. S. A. (Shimpo 4/24, 5/15)

Social Concern

Group of sixty meets with Prime Minister Sato on Yasukuni bill although it appears bill will not be acted upon this session (Shimpo 5/1)

1,233 persons participate in hunger strike May 9 expressing opposition to Yasukuni bill (Shimpo 5/22)

Women

see "Coming Events"

Yasukuni

see "Social Concerns"

* Please correct the date line on the back page of your April issue from "May 20" to "April 20."